

SELECTING DOG PROJECTS

Licking County 4-H Youth Development Program

You and Your Dog / Obedience / Performance Dog Showmanship / Working Dog

You and Your Dog (201-D)

4-H members will learn many aspects about dogs and dog care by taking this project. The project may be repeated, with additional learning taking place each year. Parental involvement is necessary to help younger 4-H members learn about their dogs. 4-H members taking this project must have access to the Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook and complete the Dog Project and Record Book. The score sheet used for judging is in the back of the project book. 4-Hers should be proficient in each of the five evaluation areas listed on the score sheet. 4-H members repeating this project should keep current project records each year.

Obedience (201-O)

This project offers training techniques and exercises in different levels of obedience for the 4-H member. The project may be repeated, however 4-Hers must progress to higher levels of obedience according to county and state rules. This progression depends on the experience of the 4-H member and /or dog.

Performance (Agility) (201-P)

4-H youth enrolled in this project will train their dogs to navigate an obstacle course. This project offers a fun experience for both the 4-Her and their dog. The project may be repeated and advancement is based on the USDAA Junior Handler Rules for Agility. The Ohio State Fair offers judging for this project.

Showmanship (201-S)

4-H members learn showmanship skills, such as stacking and gaiting their dogs. Youth can repeat Showmanship, but must progress to different levels according to state and county rules. This progression depends on the age and experience of the 4-H member and/ or the dog's show experience. Showmanship classes are offered at the Ohio State Fair. 4-H members must have access to The Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook to prepare for the interview questions asked during judging.

Working Dogs (201-W)

This is a project for young people interested in raising or fostering puppies for Pilot Dogs, Canine Companions for Independence, Paws With A Cause, or a similar assistance dog organization. Assistance Dogs are Guide Dogs that assist people who are blind and visually impaired; Hearing Dogs that assist people who are deaf and hard of hearing; and Service Dogs that assist people who are physically disabled and /or mobility impaired. Each youth enrolled in this project will raise or foster a puppy according to that respective assistance dog organization's guidelines, using the Working Dog Project and the assistance dog organization's puppy raising curriculum. All youth who take this project are eligible to show their puppies in the Assistance Dogs class at the Ohio State Fair and Hartford Fair provided the puppies are six months of age by the show date.

Project Judging: All projects, with the exception of Agility, will be judged during the Hartford Independent Fair Dog Show.